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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10 and 12-16 are pending in this application. None of the claims are currently amended. The Office indicated that the sole remaining impediment to allowance of the claims is a requirement for a terminal disclaimer relative to U.S. Patent 6,823,386. The requested terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith. Applicant therefore requests a notice of allowance.

Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

2 February 2001

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